

Dear parishioners and friends of Saint James Cathedral,

Seemingly without many of us noticing, the month of May is upon us. There will be different celebrations of Mother's Day this year and no public crownings of the Blessed Virgin Mary, even as the month of May is dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. Concerns over the coronavirus pandemic has altered so much, even our concepts of time.

Bishop DiMarzio and the Diocese of Brooklyn have provided many tools and venues for at-home worship. The Bishop has been reaching out to us in written statements and video presentations. I have tried my best but I have to admit, learning all the things required to make videos and publish them is a huge challenge, especially when trying to do it alone. I have done what I could. I am thankful that some people seems to appreciate my efforts, even though I'm not too impressed!

At the risk of appearing shallow, I do think that the numerous April showers are already producing their effect and that many May flowers are upon us. The birds and animals around Brooklyn haven't been spotted with any face masks and I don't sense any increased fear from them, if anything, joy and relief that they are freer to roam about and do their wildlife thing. Nature goes on unimpeded and as life and a sign of life, we can see in this that our lives will go on. Circumstances will be different but God has given us graces and talents such that Christ's promise to be with us always and that we will have life in abundance will still be true.

Please see below a letter from our Holy Father Pope Francis encouraging us to pray ever more fervently the Holy Rosary in this Month of Mary. I hope that many will take up his suggestion. During the earthly life of Our Lord, Mary maintained her faith in the Lord till the end and beyond, despite what must have been excruciating trials and tribulations. She knows what it is like and is there offering her intercession for us individually, as a Church and as a human race.

Be blessed and know that I am celebrating Mass as always and keep you in my prayers and thoughts. I remain,

Yours,

Fr Bryan

Feast of Saint Joseph, the Worker